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*Memorandum*

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Ed Shikada  
Leslye Krutko

**SUBJECT: HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF  
CITY FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

**DATE:** 02-2-06

Approved

Date

02/03/06

### INFORMATION

This memorandum provides a brief update on post-Hurricane Katrina relief efforts locally and in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Based on City Council approval of funds to support relief efforts, the City has worked with the American Red Cross – Santa Clara Valley Chapter and the Santa Clara County Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort (CADRE) to support the roughly 300 households that arrived in the San Jose area since the hurricane disasters of August and September. As of today, we continue to assist 142 households that have chosen to remain in the area.

### Katrina Evacuees

Locally, the focus of much of the City efforts has been in ensuring that the housing needs of Katrina evacuees have been met, whether through interim housing at Spartan Village, with friends/family, or other options. More recently, efforts have focused on transitioning those evacuees needing assistance into long term housing, which resulted in all evacuees moving out of Spartan Village by the end of December. The City was successful in negotiating with the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara to make 100 Section 8 Housing Choice vouchers available for Katrina evacuees. To date, 83 households have used these vouchers to secure permanent housing. Additionally, in collaboration with the Housing Industry Foundation, the City provided move-in assistance of \$500 to \$1,200 per family, in addition to the funds they received from other sources.

In order to assist with an identified need in the transition from interim to long-term housing, staff from Red Cross, CADRE, and the City agreed that the highest priority use for City financial support was to provide basic furniture for any registered household in need. EHC LifeBuilders, under separate contracts with the Red Cross and the San José Housing Department, was therefore authorized to purchase beds, a dinette, and seating to any registered household in need. Gift cards in the amounts of \$150 from Target and \$150 from Safeway were also provided to each registered household.

CADRE also led a number of programs throughout the Holidays to provide gifts for evacuees. These activities are described in the attached report. As also noted on the attachment, CADRE formally deactivated on January 31, 2006 and is now transitioning to support long-term recovery for evacuees.

### **Hattiesburg Efforts**

In parallel, pursuant to City Council action to support recovery efforts in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the departments of Transportation (DOT) and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE) each deployed staff teams to Hattiesburg. DOT deployed an eight-person team for one week in mid-December. This team completed several projects including sanitary sewer repair, clearing and reconstruction of a pedestrian path and bridge, and demolition of damaged infrastructure at the City zoo. PBCE deployed a two-person team of building inspectors in mid-December and a second two-person team in early January. These inspectors provided relief to Hattiesburg's current two-person inspection staff, completing inspections and recommending system improvements to Hattiesburg's development review process.

The activities described above have been accomplished within the City Council's authorized allocation of \$500,000. The anticipated expenditures are as follow:

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| American Red Cross                  | \$200,000     |
| Housing Department                  |               |
| Services by EHC LifeBuilders        | 87,000        |
| Furniture                           | 100,000       |
| Security deposits                   | 12,000        |
| <u>Hattiesburg staff deployment</u> | <u>95,000</u> |
| Total                               | \$494,000     |

At this time the Red Cross has spent or encumbered roughly half of its funding allocation, with plans to focus the remaining funds on long-term recovery. Other allocations listed above have generally been expended; however, since some expenses may be Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursable, staff will seek reimbursement for all eligible expenses.



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## **CADRE Coordination of Community Resources for Katrina**



**The Santa Clara County Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort (CADRE), coordinated by the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley (VCSV), was activated on August 29, 2005. During the initial phase of the CADRE response, VCSV began the coordination and management of various community contributions. These contributions met many of the immediate needs of the evacuee families and they included:**

- 1,452 spontaneous volunteers registered by VCSV (320 deployed to hurricane affected region by ARC)
- 892 transitional housing offers from members of the community
- 2 months of VTA passes made available to all evacuees
- \$5000 in phone cards
- 120 backpacks filled with household and personal items necessary for the first few days of relocation (arranged by the VCSV Katrina Resettlement Committee).
- \$60,000 in deposit assistance provided by the Housing Industry Foundation

**Within one month of activation, as emerging needs and resources were identified, the CADRE leadership network launched a three-part resource fair series. In partnership with both the Santa Clara Valley and Palo Alto chapters of the American Red Cross and the African-American Community Services Agency, VCSV organized these face-to-face opportunities for public service agencies, community-based organizations, businesses, faith-based communities and cultural organizations to share information about services, resources and resettlement opportunities.**

- 10/15/05 at Spartan Village (21 agencies, over 60 families served)
- 11/5/05 at Cubberley Center in Palo Alto (15 agencies, 9 families served)
- 11/19/05 at San Jose City Hall (50 agencies, over 90 families served)

**The CADRE Long-Term Recovery (LTR) planning process was initiated on October 25, 2005. The conference participants established three committee groups to guide the LTR planning process and the Outreach Committee was tasked with addressing immediate and emerging needs of clients. Along with conceptual development of future resources, the committee organized community-based holiday gift activities:**

- ☐ Thanksgiving Baskets – 91 families
  - Each basket contained everyday and gourmet foods for family of four
  - Distributed by staff and volunteers from various CADRE agencies (members of Outreach Committee) at 11/19 Resource Fair
- ☐ Intel Gift Program – 40 families
  - Personalized gifts and general household items
  - Distributed by staff and volunteers from ESO and African American Community Services Agency (Outreach Committee members) and California State Interior warehouse.
- ☐ Google Donation Program – 15 families
  - Various items purchased and shipped by Google employee group (microwaves, strollers, toys, etc.)
  - Distributed by staff and volunteers from Katrina Relocation Project and VCSV.
- ☐ CADRE Holiday Gift Program
  - Family sponsors – 8 families

## **CADRE Coordination of Community Resources for Katrina**

- Personalized gifts sponsored by community members and small church groups affiliated with CADRE.
- Distributed by volunteers from the Tzu Chi Foundation (Outreach Committee member)
- Gift card donations – 38 families
  - Gift cards (\$4150 total) donated by community members and small church groups affiliated with CADRE.
  - Goodwill gift certificates (\$1720 total)
  - Gift cards and certificates were distributed by VCSV coordinator (Outreach Committee Chair)
- ❑ Brook Furniture Donation
  - Used furniture donation requested by Housing Industry Foundation, donated by Brook Furniture Rental
  - Staff and volunteers from ESO (Outreach Committee member) and California State Interior warehouse delivered donations to families.
  - Furniture still remaining in warehouse - will be taken by Salvation Army in exchange for vouchers.
- ❑ "We've Got Your Back" by Links Project, Inc – 25 families
  - Backpacks and school supplies for school-aged children in grades K-12.
- ❑ Use of free warehouse space donated by California State Interior, Inc.
  - 60 days and use of warehouse staff on an as-needed basis
  - Large amount of space used for all furniture and gift donations.

**On January 31, 2006, CADRE formally de-activated and launched the Long-Term Recovery process, which will be managed by the Santa Clara County LTR Team and the LTR Advisory Board. Beginning at 315 households (1,384 people), the number of evacuees is now at 142 households. They are currently being served by the Emergency Housing Consortium as they resettle into new homes (80 permanently housed, 25 in temporary housing and 20 that have returned to the Gulf region or moved out of the area). Over the course of five months, CADRE has been the coordination point for many community resources. While community and faith-based organizations remained at the heart of the direct services provided to evacuee clients, many had not been integrated into the CADRE network. Upon identification of this gap in representation, CADRE has been working to streamline these efforts under one county-wide CADRE response.**